

Acquisition Reform Success Story



B-1B CMUP - Streamlined Production Readiness Reviews

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Program Description

The B-1B Conventional Mission Upgrade Program (CMUP) is a multi-phased initiative to upgrade the B-1B's weapon delivery system, the avionics computer complex and defensive avionics system. These upgrades will enable the B-1B to accomplish future bomber conventional missions as the backbone of the bomber force.

How Streamlining Made a Difference

Facing a multi-phased program with numerous Milestone III decision points, the B-1B CMUP combined contractor/government team attacked the traditional approach to Production Readiness Reviews (PRR) with a challenge to find a cheaper, faster, better way of verifying production readiness. The team evolved the concept of Special Production Surveys (SPS) as a way of reducing time and administrative burden of the usual PRR process. The SPS approach uses the same entry and exit criteria as the PRR, but eliminates government reviews at the subcontractor level. Instead, only a single formal review is conducted with the prime integrating contractor who, in turn, is responsible to ensure subcontractor readiness. The SPS partnering relationship is a "win-win" solution for the entire government-contractor team.

MEASURE	SAVINGS
Plan and Prepare for Review (Prime) - Manhours	80%
Conduct On-site Review (Prime) - Manhours	71%
Travel Costs (Prime) - Dollars	80%
Conduct On-site Review (Sub) - Govt Manhours	100%
Govt Travel Costs (Sub) - Dollars	100%

Bottom Line: In preparation for upcoming Milestone III decision points, the B-1B CMUP IPT aggressively attacked non-value-added activity associated with PRR. The streamlined solution of SPS meets the need to verify readiness for production while dramatically slashing associated contractor and government costs.